THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Special courts communal riots

2784. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to appoint Special Courts to deal with cases relating to communal clashes; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Law and Order is a State subject. The Central Government has been advising the State Governments and UT Administrations to set up Special Courts, wherever necessary, to try communal riot cases expeditiously.

Killing of a taxi driver at IGI Airport by Delhi Police Officer

2785. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a self-employed taxi-driver was killed at the IGI Airport by the careless handling of the weapon by a Delhi Police Officer in April, 1992; if so, the details of the incident;

(b) in what manner Government have compensated the next to kin of the deceased; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the widow of the victim has approached the Government for suitable compensation and employment and if so, what steps have been taken to provide relief to her?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir. On 22.4.1992, one taxi driver late Shri Ravinder Singh resident of Virender Nagar, West Delhi was hit by a bullet fired negligently by one police constable Brijpal Singh outside IGI Airport, New Delhi. He was immediately removed to All India Institute of Medical Sciences where he succumbed to his injuries. A case under section 337 IPC was registered and constable Brijpal Singh was arrested. Later on after the death of the injured, section of law was changed to 304-A IPC

(b) An ex-gratia relief of Rs. 20,000/- has been paid to Smt. Jagjit Kaur, widow of Shri Ravinder Singh from Lt. Governor/ Chief Executive Councillor's Relief Fund.

(c) The Delhi Police has sent a proposal to Delhi Administration for obtaining approval of the Lt. Governor, Delhi to appoint the widow of the deceased as Headconstable (Ministerial) in relaxation of Exployment Exchange Procedure and Recruitment Rules.

Probe into Bombay riots

2786. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered probe recently to enquire into the recent riots in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the probe aid composition of the probe body;

(c) the time limit within which that is expected to submit its report;

(d) the losses suffered by the people as a result of the riots and total number of lives lost; and

(e) the compensation paid to the relatives of those killed and steps taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The State Government of Maharashtra has set up

a Commission of Enquirry under the Commission of Enquiry Act, 1952 presided over by Shri Justice B. N. Srikrishna. The Commission will enquire into the riots which occurred in the Bombay Police Commissionerate in December, 1992 and January, 1993. The Commission, according to its terms of referencefi is required to enquire into the adequacy or otherwise of the precautionary and preventive measures taken; the adequacy of the steps taken by the police to contrtl the riots including the justification of Police firing; and the reponsibility or otherwise of any individuals or any organisation for the events. It is further required to suggest the long and short term measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents and to secure communal harmony. The Commission has to submit its report to the State Government within a period of six months from the date of publication of the Notification in the Official Gazette.

(d) According to the information furnished by the State Government, 757 persons were killed in Bombay during the riots in Dtcember, 1992 and January, 1993. Information regarding the losses suffered by the people during the riots in Bombay is not available.

(e) According to the information available, the State Government have disbursed Rs. 1225 lakhs to the riot victims in Maharashtra so far which includes the amount disbursed in Bombay.

The State Government have taken a number of measures for the rehabilitation of the victims like providing financial and other assistance through local area committees constituted for the purpose.

Security to press people

2787. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Press People have to go to vulnerable points for proper coverage of the events;

(b) whether Government have issued separate precise and detailed instructions to the Civil, administrative and para-military authorities to provide facilities to the Press People;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to aviod the repetition of happenings to the Press People after the Ayodhya experience; and

(d) what measures have been taken to compensate the injured people and loss of their equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Since 'public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure that Press persons do not suffer any threat of bodily harm while discharging their duties. However, the Central Government have issued guidelines from time to time to the State Governments regarding providing necessary protection and security to journalists wherever the situation so demands so that they may discharge their professional duties effectively and in an independent manner. The Ministry of Labour have informed that they have requested all State Governments/UTs in August, 1991 to add the category of 'Newspaper employees on outdoor duties' to the list of hazardous occupation specified in Schedule-II of the work men's Compensation Act. This would make newspapers employees eligible for compensation under the Act. With regard to incident in Ayodhya, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have decided to give compensation of Rs. 10,000/- to the seriously injured and Rs. 5,000/- as compensation to those who are sustained minor injury.

(Transferred to 26th March, 1993)

Temples distroyed in Kerala in December, 1992

2789. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that temples were destroyed in Kerala State in De-